

ANTHRIBIDAE FROM THE ISLAND OF RODRIGUEZ

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THE *Anthribidae* of which I give here a list were collected on Rodriguez by Mr. H. P. Thomasset and Mr. H. J. Snell between August and November 1918.¹ The collection contains ten species, of which no fewer than four are new, one of them representing a new genus. The *Anthribidae* are similar to those from the Seychelles, the majority of them being of very small size. The types of the new species are in the British Museum. I am much obliged to Dr. Hugh Scott for a set of specimens presented to our collection.

The only *Anthribidae* recorded from Rodriguez are the two species described by Waterhouse in *Ann. Mag. N.H.* (4) xviii. p. 118-120 (1876), both of which are contained in the present collection.

1. *Phloeobius gigas cervinus* Klug (1833).

Three ♂♂, four ♀♀.

2. *Hormiscops thomasseti* spec. nov.

♂♀. Rufo-brunneus, pube luteo-grisea variegatus, fronte dimidio rostri aequilata, oculo sinuato, carina prothoracicali lateribus gradatim antrorsum flexa.

Long. (cap. excl.) 1.8-2.7 mm.

A series.

Body rufescent brown, pubescent luteous grey, underside and pygidium unicolorous, upperside variegated with brown, usually the greater portion of the disc of the pronotum and a variable median patch on each elytrum brown, legs and base of antenna pale rufous, middle of femora and the tarsi brown. Sinus of eye very distinct; head reticulate-rugate, the lines not much raised; pronotum coriaceous, somewhat rugate, apex almost smooth, carina gradually curved forward at sides, without forming a distinct angle. Elytra half as long again as broad, cylindrical, with no impressed lines besides the sutural line, but in basal half with lines of punctures, no punctures in apical half. Pygidium smooth in ♂, rugate in ♀, white.

3. *Balanodes tomentosus* Waterh. (1876).

A series.

4. *Araecerus suturalis* Boh. (1839).

A large series. The species is common in India. The ♂ is easily recognised by the long pygidium.

Dinephrius gen. nov.

♂. A genere *Caranistes* dicto differt oculis magnis sinuatis.

Genotype: *D. annulatus* Waterh. (1876, as *Caranistes*).

The antennae bear long bristles on the shaft and club. The eyes are longer

¹ Cf. *Ann. Mag. N. H.* (9) xii. p. 330 (1923).

than broad and have a narrow but rather deep sinus above the antennal groove; they are as widely apart as the antennal grooves or nearer together (the frons probably being broader in the ♀♀). Pygidium large, rounded at apex, with the apical margin incurved.

5. *Dinephrius annulatus* Waterh. (1876).

Only one ♂. Eyes as far apart as the antennal grooves.

I take the opportunity of describing a closely allied species from Mauritius (Ile de France):

Dinephrius mauritius spec. nov.

♂. Frons capitis multo angustior; tibiae apice pallidae; tarsorum segmenti primi dimidium basale brunneum.

Long. 4.5-5 mm.

In *D. annulatus* the apices of the tibiae and the apical half of the first tarsal segment are dark brown, in *D. mauritius* the brown postmedian ring of the tibiae is narrow and does not extend to the apex, and the basal half of the first tarsal segment is pale testaceous, while the apical half is brown. The eyes are much closer together in *D. mauritius*, the frons being less than half as broad as the space between the antennal grooves. Moreover, the pygidium of *D. mauritius* is a little longer.

Talpella gen. nov.

♀. *Scirtetino* Jord. (1914) affinis, pubescentia sparsissima vestita, carina prothoracicali lateribus gradatim antrorsum flexa, unguiculis edentatis.

The tooth of the mandible is a little farther away from the apex than in *Scirtetinus*. The species on which I base this genus is similar in shape to *Sc. dimidiatus* Jord. (1914), recalling by the proportions of its body the Brazilian *Hypocephalus armatus* Desm. (1832) and the Mole Cricket.

6. *Talpella atra* spec. nov.

♀. *Atra* vel piceo-atra, antennarum basi atque tarsis pallide luteis; capite reticulato; pronoto transversim densissime seriatim punctato; elytris fortissime striato-punctatis; pygidio punctis grossis notato apice glabro.

Long. 1.5 mm.

Three ♀♀.

One of the specimens is glossy black with a very slight pitchy tint, the mouth-parts, base of antenna and the tarsi pale luteous; in a second the mesosternum and part of the tibiae, and in the third example the meso-metasterna, abdomen inclusive of pygidium and the legs, are luteous. Proportions of antennal segments as in *Scirtetinus*. Head and rostrum covered with a net of hexagonal meshes, each bearing a minute central puncture, about 5 meshes between antennal grooves. Prothorax rather larger than the rest of the body, with long punctures beneath, but above densely covered with short transverse rows of confluent punctures, many of the rows joined together, which gives the pronotum the appearance of being transversely rugate-plicate; carina antebasal, gradually curved forward at sides, without indication of an angle. Elytra rather narrower than pronotum, coarsely punctate-striate, interspaces convex, the basal half of the suture and the posterior half of the third interspace distinctly elevate.

Pygidium broader than long, triangular, with the apex rounded off. Sterna and abdomen coarsely punctate.

Pubescence very sparse, silky, distinct under a high power, each puncture evidently bearing a hair, the hairs lying flat on the derm.

7. *Homoeodera snelli* spec. nov.

♂. Atra, nitida, supra squamis elongatis albis dispersis vestita, antennarum basi, tibiis tarsisque pallide rufis, pronoto densiter punctato, elytris punctis magnis seriatim dispositis, plus triente apicali impunctato.

Long. 1.2 mm.

Two ♂♂.

Head minutely coriaceous, with shallow pits. Segments 9 and 10 of antenna truncate, the apical margin somewhat incurved, one side of the segments much more widened than the other, 9 about as long as broad, longer than 10, which is much broader than long, 11 rounded, nearly circular, with the tip very slightly acuminate. Pronotum as long as broad, as wide at base as at apex, with the sides evenly rounded; minutely coriaceous, densely pitted with large punctures, which are not confluent, apical marginal area without punctures. Elytra cylindrical, one-fourth longer than broad, the sides slightly, the apex in dorsal view very strongly rounded, no impressed stripes, except the sutural one in apical third, basal margin slightly incurved from shoulder to shoulder with the edge raised, shoulder angle well marked in dorsal view, no subbasal callosity, shoulders not elevate, no transverse antemedian depression, from base to beyond middle rows of very large punctures, rather more than the apical third without punctures. Pygidium vertical, slightly inclining cephalad, smooth, nearly semicircular. Prosternum coarsely punctate; proximal abdominal segments with a few large punctures at the base.

In perfect specimens evidently each puncture bears a white scale-hair, which narrows towards base and gradually tapers to a point apically, recalling a short blade of grass. These white scales very conspicuous under a lens.

8. *Achoragus pumilio* spec. nov.

♀. Nigro-piceus, griseo pubescens, antennis pedibusque luteis, elytris etiam pallidis brunneo variis. Oculi grosse granulati. Pronotum minute coriaceum, leviter punctatum, lateribus punctis grossis instructum, angulo carinae obtuso, carina dorsali medio concava. Elytra punctato-striata. Pygidium semicirculare, nitidium, impunctatum.

Long. 1.5-1.8 mm.

Five ♀♀.

Eye much more coarsely granulated than in *A. tener* Jord. (1914), from the Seychelles, and minutely but distinctly sinuate. Pubescence grey, as coarse as in *A. tener*. Head and prothorax brownish black, coriaceous, with large but rather widely separated punctures, which are shallow except at the sides of the pronotum. Carina applied to the basal margins of the elytra, concave medianly, gradually slightly convex towards sides, angle a little more than 90°, not rounded except its extreme tip; no reticulation on head and pronotum. Elytra convex from base to apex and from side to side, nearly half as long again as broad, pale rufous clay, the suture and margins and some variable and ill-defined spaces,

particularly a lateral antemedian patch, darker brown; punctate-striate, the punctures deep, becoming more shallow towards apex. Pygidium semicircular, glossy, with dispersed grey pubescence and without distinct punctures.

Underside sparingly pubescent, glossy; prosternum coarsely punctured; at base and apex of metasternum, laterally, a row of punctures and also at the bases of segments 1 to 4 of abdomen. Legs and antennae very pale, femora more or less pitchy brown.

9. *Achoragus tantillus* spec. nov.

♀. Caput et pronotum reticulata, rostro basi fovea mediana instructo, elytris fortiter punctato-striatis.

Long. 2 mm.

One ♀.

Larger than the preceding species; colouring similar, pubescence rather denser. Distinguished by the longer antenna, of which segments 9 and 10 are elongate-pyriform, 9 being very little longer than 10; by the rostrum bearing a basal median groove and being like head and pronotum covered by a net of meshes, which are very feeble on the disc of the pronotum; by the angle of the pronotal carina being a little sharper, 90° ; and by the stripes of the elytra being more impressed except apically. Differs from *A. tener* in the longer antenna, the presence of the groove on the rostrum, the much less distinctly reticulate pronotum, the much more coarsely punctate-striate elytra, and the smaller pygidium.

10. *Corynecia scotti* Jord. (1914).

One ♂.

The eyes of this specimen are somewhat elongate and oblique, the frons therefore narrowing somewhat towards the rostrum. Possibly a species distinct from *C. scotti*.
